Purchase of AN-38 Transport Planes from Russia

4400. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has entered into a deal with Russia for purchasing Antonov AN-38 Transport Planes for the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any joint project with Russia underway for developing transport aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details and targeted time for developing this aircraft alongwith the estimated expenses on each of the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) HAL has been tasked to co-develop and co-produce a multi-role transport aircraft as a part of a joint project with Russia. The aircraft development and its certification is scheduled in six years from the date of launch of the project.

Report of Price negotiation Committee on Acquisition of AJTs

4401. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price negotiating Committee on acquisition of Hawk AJTs submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has put its foot down on the acquisition of AJTs because of its having American sub-systems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Periodic reports have been submitted by the price negotiating committee from time to time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Visit of the US Delegation to India in March, 2002

4402. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of United States of America visited India in the month of March, 2002;

(b) if so, the subjects of mutual interest which were discussed with them;

(c) the agreements reached during the visit and other details in this regard; and

(d) the assistance expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Visit of U.S. Armed Forces officers did take place during this time period.

(b) to (d) It would not be possible to give further details, in the interest of national security.

Delivery of 5 SU-30 Aircraft by Russia to India

4403. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia was to supply 5 SU-30 Aircrafts to India;

(b) if so, the number out of them which have been delivered to India; and

(c) when the remaining aircraft are likely to be delivered?